

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 were presented in the original application. Claims 20-32 have been cancelled herewith in this Election and Reply without prejudice to Applicants' rights to pursue the inventions of these claims in other patent applications. Claims 1 and 16-19 are currently amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 16 can at least be found on Page 6, lines 21-29 (for "all glycoprotein gene units"), on Page 13, lines 6-7 (for "biologically select cells containing stable, replicating, non-cytotoxic replicons"), and Figure 1 of the specification as originally filed (for "all glycoprotein gene units"). Support for the amendments to Claims 16-19 directing these claims to "a plasmid" can at least be found on Page 7, lines 8-23.

RESTRICTION

In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner restricted the then pending claims into five (5) groups of Inventions as follows:

- I. Claims 1-19, drawn to a negative-strand RNA virus replicon or cDNA thereof.
- II. Claims 20-27, drawn to a method of use of a cDNA of a negative-strand RNA virus replicon to produce a negative-strand RNA virus replicon.
- III. Claims 28-30, drawn to a method of reproducing a negative-strand RNA virus replicon.
- IV. Claim 31, drawn to a method of use of a negative-strand RNA virus replicon to produce a heterologous protein.
- V. Claim 32, drawn to a method of screening antiviral agents.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse the Group I invention, which is drawn to a negative-strand RNA virus replicon or cDNA thereof. Applicants identify Claims 1-19 as the

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Election and Reply to Restriction
to Office Action dated December 4, 2007
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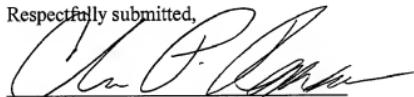
claims corresponding to this election. Applicants further note that the amendments to Claims 16-19 simply direct these claims to a plasmid that comprises a negative-strand RNA virus cDNA. As such, Claims 16-19 as currently amended still fall within the elected Group I invention as they are still essentially drawn to a negative-strand RNA virus replicon or cDNA thereof. In electing the Group I invention, Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to any of the inventions of Groups II, III, IV, or V in divisional applications.

CONCLUSION

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in the filing of this Amendment. However, in the event that additional extensions of time or other fees are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 20-0823.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned via telephone at the number provided, if it is determined that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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